

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

REQUEST

FOR

CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).



Application Number

09/198,376

Filing Date

November 24, 1998

First Named Inventor

Okamoto

Group Art Unit

3743

Examiner Name

Flanigan, Allen J.

Attorney Docket Number

01300033aa

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53 (d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of an RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE Practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114.

a. Previously submitted

i. Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 previously filed December 5, 2001 on

ii. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on

iii. Other _____

b. Enclosed

i. Amendment/Reply

ii. Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)

iii. Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

iv. Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of _____ months (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required)

b. Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. _____

i. RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)

ii. Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. Other _____

03/08/2002 TBESHAH1 00000010 09198376

01 FC:179

740.00 0P

b. Check in the amount of \$ 740 enclosed

c. Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

Name (Print / Type)	Michael E. Whitham	Registration No. (Attorney / Agent)	32,635
---------------------	--------------------	-------------------------------------	--------

Signature		Date	March 7, 2002
-----------	---	------	---------------

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

30743

Name (Print / Type)	PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
---------------------	-------------------------

Signature		Date	
-----------	--	------	--

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 0.2 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND Fees and Completed Forms to the following address: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231.

RECEIVED
MAY 13 2002
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700